Food Security

641. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to stale:

(a) whether is a fact that India is more malnourished today than it was in 1947;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the per capita availability of pulses has declined sharply from 78 gram per day at the time of independence to 40 gram per day at present;

(c) whether the question of food security was discussed in national symposium held in the capital from 17lh to 19th April, 2001; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) It is not correct to say that India is more malnourished today than it was in 1947. At the time of independence clinical manifestations of various nutritional deficiencies like Beri Beri, Pellagra, Keratomalacia, Kwashiorkor and marasmus were widely prevalent. The near total disappearance of florid nutritional deficiency disorders, which were once major public health problems in India, has been remarkable experience.

(b) The per capita availability of pulses has declined from 60.7 gms/day in 1951 to 32.0 gms/day in 2000.

(c) A National Consultation on "Towards Hunger Free India" was jointly organized by the Planning Commission, the World Food Programme and MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in New Delhi between 24—26th April, 2001. The discussion during the consultation revolved around the question of ensuring food security to all in India.

(d) The National Consultation was held mainly to ascertain the views of experts on the question of food security. The different technical sessions as part of the Consultation deliberated upon the themes of (i) food availability and vulnerability to national disasters (ii) food absorption and utilization and (iii) sustainable livelihood and economic access to food.

MSP for Tur Dal in Karnataka

642. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to pay minimum support price to Tur Dal